

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A composition for production of a sterilizer, having a water content of 1 to 25% by weight and comprising (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group and (B1) hydrogen peroxide.

2. (Original) A composition for production of a sterilizer, which comprises (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group and (B1) hydrogen peroxide or (B2) an inorganic peroxide releasing hydrogen peroxide in water wherein the molar ratio of (A) to (B1) or the molar ratio of (A) to (B1) generated from (B2), that is, (A)/(B1) is 1/10 to 20/1, the composition for production of a sterilizer being used as an aqueous solution prepared by adjustment to pH 8 to 12 and then to pH 1 to less than 7.

3. (Original) A composition for production of a sterilizer, obtained by compounding (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group and (B1) hydrogen peroxide or (B2) an inorganic peroxide releasing hydrogen peroxide in water wherein the molar ratio of (A) to (B1) or the molar ratio of (A) to (B1) generated from (B2), that is, (A)/(B1) is 1/10 to 20/1, the composition for production of a sterilizer being used as an aqueous solution prepared by adjustment to pH 8 to 12 and then to pH 1 to less than 7.

4. (Original) A sterilizer composition having a pH value of 1 to less than 7 at 25°C and comprising water and an organic peracid obtained by reacting (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group with (B1) hydrogen peroxide in an (A)/(B1) molar ratio of 1/10 to 20/1 in water at pH 8 to 12.

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Application No.: NEW

Docket No.: 0425-1218PUS1

5. (Currently amended) The sterilizer composition according to claim 4, which is obtained by using a composition for production of a sterilizer, having a water content of 1 to 25% by weight and comprising (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group and (B1) hydrogen peroxide the composition for production of a sterilizer according to claim 1.

6. (Currently amended) The sterilizer composition according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein the content of hydrogen peroxide is 0.5 wt% or less.

7. (Currently amended) The composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the polyhydric acid constituting (A) is a C2 to C12 polyhydric alcohol.

8. (Currently amended) The composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the organic acid constituting (A) is a C1 to C8 fatty acid.

9. (Currently amended) The composition according to ~~any one of claims 2, 3, 7 and 8~~ claim 2, wherein (B2) is an inorganic peroxide selected from the group consisting of sodium percarbonate and sodium perborate.

10. (Original) A method of sterilizing a material to be sterilized, which comprises contacting, with a material to be sterilized, an aqueous solution containing an organic peracid obtained by reacting (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group with (B1) hydrogen peroxide in an (A)/(B1) molar ratio of 1/10 to 20/1 in water at pH 8 to 12, and then adjusting the reaction system to pH 1 to less than 7.

11. (Currently amended) The sterilizing method according to claim 9, wherein the aqueous solution is obtained by using the composition, ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 9.~~

12. (Currently amended) The sterilizing method according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the content of hydrogen peroxide is 0.5 wt% or less.

13. (Original) A process for producing an organic peracid, which comprises a step of reacting (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group with (B1) hydrogen peroxide in an (A)/(B1) molar ratio of 1/10 to 20/1 in water at pH 8 to 12, and then adjusting the reaction system to pH 1 to less than 7.

14. (Original) A process for producing a sterilizer composition, which comprises a step of reacting (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group with (B1) hydrogen peroxide in an (A)/(B1) molar ratio of 1/10 to 20/1 in water at pH 8 to 12, and then adjusting the reaction system to pH 1 to less than 7.

15. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~, wherein (A) and (B1) are brought about as a liquid composition with a water content of 1 to 25% by weight comprising (A) and (B1).

16. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~, wherein the content of hydrogen peroxide in the sterilizer composition is 0.5 wt% or less.

17. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 16~~ claim 13, wherein the polyhydric alcohol constituting (A) is a C2 to C12 polyhydric alcohol.

18. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 17~~ claim 13, wherein the organic acid constituting (A) is a C1 to C8 fatty acid.

19. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 18~~ claim 13, wherein the reaction of (A) with (B1) in water at pH 8 to 12 is carried out at 5 to 50°C for 1 to 120 minutes.

Application No.: NEW

Docket No.: 0425-1218PUS1

20. (Currently amended) Use of the composition for production of a sterilizer according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 for production of a sterilizer.

21. (Currently amended) Use of the sterilizer composition according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4 as a sterilizer.